

## MEDICAL NOTES.

**SUGAR AS AN ANTISEPTIC DRESSING.**—Trials have been made recently with a satisfactory character, used with equal parts of naphthalene or with a fifth part of balsam, inclosing it in gauges bandages which are fixed over the wound after the application of sugar. When the skin is defective the sugar is strewn over the wounded surface, and the eschar is strewed over the wounded surface, and the wound is disinfected during the operation by means of a 1 per cent. carbolic acid solution. The dressing may remain on the part from a week to a fortnight, until the sugar becomes dissolved, the secretions from the wound diffusing themselves equally throughout the sugar; if, however, the sugar is applied too thickly, it forms little lumps. The wound is then dressed with a light gauged bandage, and no further treatment is necessary; the granulations are well developed, having no inclination to bleed, and evaporation proceeds rapidly. In wounds uniting by suture, primary union has always been obtained by this treatment.

**THE HEARING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.**—The medical journals inform, without exception, the suggestion made by Dr. Well, in the Archives of Otolaryngology, based on his examination of the ears and hearing of nearly 6,000 school children, namely, that in every case of attention the child should have its ears examined, so convince it of the fact that children who are simply hard of hearing are often misjudged and considered inattentive. Indeed, such an examination, he thinks, would be desirable once or twice a year for every child, the test being made in the school room itself, if there be no other room convenient; that is, the teacher and place the pupil in one corner of the room, then retire to the other end, and test each ear successively to be repeated by him. The result of such an examination will be to repeat by the pupil, and thus easily find out which of them are hard of hearing; this, it is believed, will induce parents to further advantage to seek the services of experts to test the hearing of their children, and inducing the a to act accordingly, or, what would be still better, surgery should have the half of the school in charge, including the examination of the ears of every pupil whom the teacher finds inattentive.

**INCREASE IN THE SIZE OF THE HEART.**—Dr. Becke of Marburg, communicates to the *Hamburger Medicoskopie*, his observations on the growth of the human heart, the fact appearing that the increase is greatest in the most rapid during the first and second years of life, its bulk, at the end of the second year being exactly double what it originally was. Between the second and seventh years it is again almost doubled. A slower rate of growth now sets in until about the fifteenth year, the maximum of volume during the intervening seven or eight years being only about twofifths. In the period of maturity, which now approaches the growth of the youth, it makes progress, the increase keeping pace with the advance toward maturity of the other parts of the system. After the twentieth year, up to the thirtieth, the annual growth is about one-tenth, a slight diminution in the ensuing. In childhood the male and female hearts are alike; after maturity the male heart develops more than that of the female, and the difference of one and a half to two cubic inches is reached, and continues to be maintained throughout the remainder of life.

**DISEASE GERMS IN WATER.**—The propagation of the *Bacillus melleus* in a productive vegetable soil whose energies are not turned to good account, will, of course, saturate that soil with its germs, and the surface waters which percolate through, becoming charged with these will convey them into the bodies of the who drink them. It is in view of this that Carpenter's attention to the fact that such waters are fraught with disease, and that a large proportion of the attacks of fevered dysentery which occur in maritime countries is traceable to it; when, on the other hand, the poisoned soils have been despoiled by solar heat, the dried interstices will be raised as floating matter in the air, and may be wafted by atmospheric currents to distant shores, there being no rise in considerable elevations. These spores, received into the human body by the lungs, it is asserted, exert the same malignant influence as agency as when they are taken into the alimentary canal.

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